relatively higher allocations of foodgrains for the APL category are being made for the hilly and difficult States and Union Territories such as Jammu & Kashmir, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Himachal Pradesh and the North Eastern States of Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland & Tripura. Also, for other hilly States such as Uttarakhand the Government has made additional allocation of wheat for the APL category.

There is no proposal under consideration for allocation of more quantity of kerosene oil to frontier and hilly States in comparison to other States under Public Distribution System.

Backlog vacancies in AIIMS

46. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether P.M. Office has temporarily suspended the process of hiring faculty members on 91 reserved category seats for AIIMS in the wake of objections raised over the advertisement announcing the recruitment;

(b) if so, what are the main reasons for holding of backlog categories of AIIMS posts;

(c) whether this has created resentment and has lowered the efficiency of AIIMS; and

(d) what are the total vacancies in this institute and by when final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Sir. The process of recruitment of 92 posts as backlog vacancies under special recruitment drive was kept in abeyance on the instructions of PMO.

(b) Due to Court cases the reservation could be provided only in 2003 and in the intervening period the posts of Assistant Professor were filled only on *ad hoc* basis, In the year 2006 and 2007 the vacancy occurred but no recruitment was made during these years.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The All India Institute of Medical Sciences has reported that a total number of 173 faculty positions (including SC/ST/OBC) are vacant at the Institute. However, the matter is under active consideration of the Government.

WHO report on HIV/AIDS

47. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether WHO has called for greater attention to curb HIV/AIDS;

(b) if so, what are the main points mentioned in the WHO report;

(c) whether 8 more States have agreed to offer second line HIV treatment;

(d) if so, what concrete steps Government has taken to check this disease;

(e) whether country has 1.95 lakh HIV infected persons on treatment and NACO estimates that at least 3 per cent of these would have become resistant to first line drugs, mainly due to poor adherence to the treatment regime; and

(f) if so, whether all States have been asked to implement this treatment of HIV?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes Sir, WHO has published a policy report to guide the interventions to curb HIV/AIDS in December, 2008.

(b) The main points mentioned in this report are:

- Enabling people to know their HIV status
- Maximizing the health sector's contribution to HIV prevention
- Accelerating the scale up of HIV/AIDS treatment and care
- Strengthening and expanding health systems
- Investing in strategic information to guide a more effective response.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. The second line ART has been initiated at 10 "Centres of Excellence in HIV care" which have the necessary expertise and laboratory facilities required for initiating and monitoring second line ART.

These centres are:

1 J.J Hospital, Mumbai, Maharashtra

2 G.H.T.M, Tambaram, Tamil Nadu

3 RIMS, Imphal, Manipur

4 STM, Kolkata, West Bengal

5 BJMC, Ahmadabad, Gujarat

6 BHU, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh

7 MAMC, New Delhi

8 Bowling, Bangalore, Karnataka

9 Gandhi Hospital, Secundrabad, Andhra Pradesh

10 PGI, Chandigarh

(e) and (f) Yes Sir. Currently 199237 patients on OB ART in 197 ART centres in 31 States / UTs of country as on 31st December 2008. According to available information, nearly 3% of patient at any given time will require second line ART. This is due to mutations in the virus during replication.

Implementation of population control measures

48. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state: